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March 4, 2001

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD. 20852

RE: Docket No. 00D-1598 (labeling of genetically engineered foods)
Docket No. 00N-1396 (pre-market testing of genetically engineered foods)

Dear FDA,

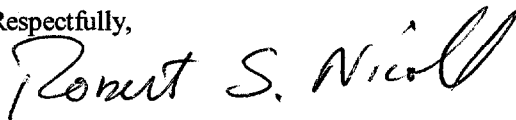
Your proposed policies about the pre-market testing and labeling of genetically engineered foods are unacceptable as written.

I, as a consumer and as a parent, want you to require the companies producing these foods to perform extensive basic safety testing. Genetically engineered foods are not "substantially equivalent" to naturally hybridized foods. Species boundaries are crossed. The FDA should take the responsible position on this issue and make mandatory testing the law. We are currently eating foods that are experimental, never before consumed in the history of mankind, and we don't know the long term health effects of such free-wheeling irresponsibility.

I think The FDA's voluntary labeling guidelines are a farce, since we all know the industry will not choose to label this food. Genetically engineered food has been creeping into the marketplace for almost twenty years. When in those years did the industry ever voluntarily label its' products? Labels that are specific must be required. Labels on GE foods are required in Japan, Russia, and throughout Europe. The FDA should pay attention to opinion polls indicating that the majority of Americans want testing and labeling. Both the E.U./U.S. Biotechnology Consultative Forum and the Consumer Federation of America recommend mandatory labeling of Genetically engineered foods.

Your constituency is the American public, not the manufacturers of genetically engineered foods. I feel you are failing to protect me and my family unless you rewrite these guidelines to a higher standard..

Respectfully,



Robert S. Nicoll

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